

333 AD

Old St Peter's built

333

1912 Dates J-BK

St Ambrose was born

C 333

1912 Dates J-BK

SAMARIA

Alexander the Great captured the town
and after killing and expelling many
of the inhabitants replaced them
with Macedonian colonists

333AD

Church of Holy Sepulcher was
begun before 333AD. It was
destroyed by the Persians in 613
then built and rebuilt
in subsequent centuries

A second cycle of feasts, this time a fixed one, was introduced some time after the movable Easter Cycle. The earliest mention of an anniversary of the birth of Christ on Christmas day (December 25) is in the so-called Philocalian Calendar, in which the entry, which may be dated to 336, reads VIII. Kal. Ian. natus Christus in Betleem, Judeae. Probably the date was chosen to offset the imperial feast of the Natalis solis invicti (the birthday of the unconquished sun), with its Mithraic

overtures. The Christological controversies of the 4th and 5th centuries doubtless contributed to the growth in importance of the feast; it aided also in lessening of the originally more important feast of the EPIPHANY to a point at which it became part of the Christmas cycle which, evolving in Africa some time between 380 and 530 passed into Spain, and thence to Italy. Advent which now prefaces the cycle appears to have been introduced at Rome by Pope Simplicius or Pope Pelagius I in the 2nd half of the 5th century.